GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5590
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
INDO-CHINA FRIENDSHIP YEAR
Chandrappan Shri C.K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China are going to celebrate "Indo-China Friendship Year";

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the salient features;

(c) the special efforts made during this year to promote tourism, trade, cooperation in IT, culture, sports and other fields;

(d) whether India and China have decided to set up a joint memorial for the ancient Chinese traveller Hiuan Sang at Nalanda; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(c) India and China held a series of cultural events in 2006 to mark the Year of India-China Friendship, including, a photo-exhibition on India; an 'India Cultural Festival'; an Indian Film Festival and a major exhibition of ancient Indian art entitled "Treasures of Ancient India". This year, both sides have agreed to organise the "India-China Year of Friendship Through Tourism" in 2007 with a joint logo and to open tourism offices in each others countries. As agreed during the visit of the Chinese President to India in November 2006, both sides are taking steps to further strengthen cooperation in trade, information technology, industry, finance, agriculture, water resources, energy, environment, transportation, infrastructure, health, education, media, culture, tourism, youth affairs and other fields.

(d)-(e) The Xuan Zang Memorial Hall, established by the Government of India with Chinese assistance was inaugurated on 12 February 2007 at Nalanda, Bihar during the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister to India.